

LEMBECK AND BETZ EAGLE BREWERY.
LAGER BREW HOUSE
164-170 Ninth Street
Jersey City
Hudson County
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-113-C

HAER
NJ
9-JERCI,
ZOC.

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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LOCATION: 164-170 Ninth Street, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. USGS Jersey City, NJ Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 18.580960.4508840

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION: 1890; altered 1920

BUILDER: M.T. Connolly Contracting Company

PRESENT OWNER: City of Jersey City, New Jersey

PRESENT USE: Vacant and abandoned storage buildings

SIGNIFICANCE: The Lembeck & Betz Eagle Brewery Lager Brew House is a representative example of late nineteenth-century industrial architecture associated with brewing.

PROJECT INFORMATION: The Lembeck & Betz Eagle Brewery Lager Brew House was recorded in October 1996 by the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., East Orange, New Jersey, for the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency. The recordation was undertaken pursuant to the stipulations of the New Jersey Historic Sites Council Resolution No. 544-95, dated May 17, 1994, responding to the city of Jersey City's request to demolish the complex. Project personnel included Richard M. Casella, Senior Architectural Historian, and Rob Tucher, Senior Photographer.

DESCRIPTION

The Lager Brew House, built in 1890 (HAER No. NJ-113-C), is a seven- and eight-story brick industrial building with a flat roof, brick foundation with basement, and decorative Italianate detailing in the brickwork, especially around windows and door openings. The building is located on the corner of Ninth Street and Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard, and adjoins the Original Brew House (HAER No. NJ-113-A) to the west. The front facade is divided vertically into eight bays and the east facade into two bays by brick pilasters. Corbeled-brick belt courses, delineating the sixth, seventh, and eighth floors, run across the front and east side. The two westernmost bays constitute the eight-story section which was originally a gable-roofed tower. The paired window openings on the front are bricked closed but defined by the deeply corbeled semicircular hoods which remain. Windows on the front were located on the sixth floor of the main block and on the seventh and eighth floors of the tower section. A blind arcade of continuous semicircular arches the full width of each bay ranges across the front at ground level. Two of these arches, at the fifth and eighth bays from the east corner, originally enframed entrance doors.

A concrete loading platform runs across the front of the building, extending out about 10 feet. A corrugated metal canopy extending over the platform is attached to the building at the second-floor level, hung with metal suspender rods and steel beams.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This building was built in 1890 by the M.T. Connolly Contracting Company as a new lager brewing house to expand the product line of the plant into the lucrative lager market. The building was originally equipped with 64 fermenting and storage vats on the middle floors, and "chip casks" in the basement. Cooling equipment was located on the upper floors and served not only the lager operation, which required the beer to be fermented at a low temperature, but also was used for ale and porter brewing during the initial cool-down stage. In 1893, the lager brewing operation was directed by master brewer Paul Kiesel, who oversaw the production of 160,000 barrels of lager beer that year.

In 1920, with the imposition of Prohibition, the owners converted the building to a cold storage facility. The roof was reconstructed into a flat roof and a new brick parapet was added. As with the other buildings in the complex along Ninth Street, a metal awning was erected over a new concrete loading platform across the front of the building. Windows were altered by infilling with brick, and additional ground-floor door openings were cut in or created from window openings. Cork insulation was applied to many of the interior walls and covered with a cement-based plaster. The building, along with the others in the complex, was operated as the New Jersey Refrigeration Company and then as National Cold Storage until some time in the 1960s.

or 1970s, and has remained vacant since. The city of Jersey City acquired the building in 1979 through tax foreclosure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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